APPROVED FOR RELEASE 2025 UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER 14176

Sirhan
Sirhan

~~SECRET~~

4 NOV 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT : Sirhan Sirhan Investigation

1. Reference is made to the questions concerning Agency involvement with Sirhan Sirhan by Mr. Dan Rather of CBS during a recent interview with Mr. Colby. Specifically, the Office of Security was asked if there was any record of the Agency working with Sgt. Enrique (Hank) Hernandez or Lt. Manuel Pena of the Los Angeles Police Department concerning the assassination of Robert Kennedy. This Office previously responded that we had no record of Hernandez or Pena and no indication that either of these individuals had ever been connected with the Agency in any way. Additionally, this Office also responded that Office of Security records provided no indication that the Agency had ever had any association or interest in Sirhan Sirhan prior to the assassination of Robert Kennedy.

2. A complete review of the Sirhan Sirhan file has disclosed that the Agency did cooperate at the direction of the Director of Central Intelligence with the Los Angeles Police Department in their investigation of Sirhan Sirhan following the assassination. Attached hereto is a blind memorandum giving the details of this cooperation as reflected in Sirhan Sirhan's security file.

Robert W. Gambino
Director of Security

Att

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~~SECRET~~

31 October 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Sirhan Sirhan Investigation

1. Sirhan Sirhan's security file reflects that he had never been of interest to the Agency prior to the assassination of Robert Kennedy. On 5 June 1968 when Sirhan was identified as the probable assassin, the Director of Central Intelligence met with the Deputy Chief of the CI Staff, the Assistant Deputy Director for Plans, and the Director of Security and directed that the CI Staff would be the focal point for action in the Sirhan case. The CI Staff was to collect all available information on Sirhan and to provide appropriate portions of this material to the Office of Security for release to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). This material was to be released to the LAPD through the Office of Security's Los Angeles Field Office.

2. Mr. William Curtin, the Special Agent in Charge of the Los Angeles Field Office, contacted Inspector Yarnell of the LAPD on 5 June 1968 and advised him that the Agency was prepared to cooperate with the LAPD in its investigation of Sirhan. Curtin advised Yarnell that any information which the Agency passed to the LAPD would be on a confidential basis and could not be attributed to the Agency or made public in any way. Inspector Yarnell agreed to these conditions stating that the LAPD felt that it already had an airtight case against Sirhan.

3. On 11 June 1968 Chief Thomas Reddin of the LAPD established a squad of twenty-three experts to conduct the investigation of Sirhan. A Captain Hugh Brown was placed in charge of this squad and Curtin met with Brown on 18 June. Curtin again expressed the Agency's willingness to cooperate with the LAPD with appropriate caveats concerning the use of any information the Agency might pass to the LAPD. From this date forward, all liaison between the LAPD and the Los Angeles Field Office regarding the Sirhan investigation was conducted between Curtin and Brown.

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4. During the course of the investigation, the Agency passed to the LAPD background information on Sirhan and his family which was obtained from various Near East stations. The majority of this information was obtained from visa records at various consulates. The Agency was able to inform the LAPD that there was no indication that Sirhan had ever been connected with any terrorist organizations. Additionally, the Agency conducted traces on various associates of Sirhan whose names were provided by the LAPD. These traces were basically negative except for visa-type information. Finally, when Sirhan's attorneys indicated they would plead "diminished responsibility" due to the traumatic dangers suffered by Sirhan as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflicts, which were particularly violent in the area where Sirhan spent his youth, the Agency provided various overt materials which provided a picture of the conditions existing in the area where Sirhan was brought up.

5. Sirhan's security file does not reflect that the Agency cooperation with the Los Angeles Police Department during its investigation was surfaced in any way.